GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4148
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2016
Impact of Climate Change on Rubber Production
M. Smt. Vasanthi

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rubber production in the country has been affected by climate change;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to educate the farmers to overcome the situation;
(c) whether the Government has any plan to motivate the research in rubber cultivation to increase the production; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b) Studies conducted by Rubber Board have shown that rising temperatures and uncertainty in the arrival and withdrawal of monsoon rains have affected the yields and production of Natural Rubber. Rubber Board has taken steps towards educating rubber growers about the protective measures which inter alia includes shading young plants during peak summer season, mulching the base of young rubber plants, taking up soil and water conservation measures, tapping of trees before sunrise etc.
(c) & (d) In order to increase production of Natural Rubber, Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) under the Rubber Board implements a major research programme for developing location-specific, climate resilient and high yielding clones. Some of the clones developed by RRII have highest yield potential in the world.
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